



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CALIF. PRIMARY RESULTS

Editor's note: Next week we'll do one of your favorite columns: *Calpeek's Winners & Losers*. And we'll provide more analysis from the March 5, 2002 Calif. primary. For now, here are the results along with some preliminary analysis...

OVERVIEW & TRENDS

● **Voter Turnout** – As of 5 a.m. on Mar. 6, only 4,762,177 voters bothered to cast ballots in Calif.'s 2nd lowest primary election. Undoubtedly this number will inch upwards as more absentee and provisional ballots are counted. But for now the percentage turnout of those *registered to vote* stands at **31.1%**. The March 13, 2000 Calif. presidential primary, by contrast, drew 7.8 million voters (53%)....

...In Calif.'s largest counties, the turnout was miserable: L.A. 23.2%; Fresno 31.6%; San Diego 29.4%; San Francisco 26.8%; Santa Clara 30.2%. One of the key exceptions: Orange Co., where hot local races and issues produced a turnout of 36.6%. Not very good, but better than L.A. or San Diego...

...As a result of this low turnout, the vote cast was much *more conservative*, but that didn't seem to impact on two very critical bond measures on the ballot: **Props. 40** (Water, Parks, Air, Coastal Protection) and **41** (Voting Machine Modernization Act). *Calpeek* sources were fearful that a heavy conservative vote might doom these two important bond measures...

● **No More Early Primaries** – There's already a move underway in the Legislature to move the early March primary for Statewide, Legislative and U.S. Congressional races back to June or even later to September. Either would be a huge improvement over this early primary madness...

● **The Mud Goes Flying** – This primary was marked by some of the most negative campaigns *Calpeek* has ever seen. Normally, the mud begins to fly early and often in some of the heated U.S. House and Legislative races, but this primary saw heavy use of negatives in Statewide races as well...

● **IEs & Slates** – Once again, independent expenditure committees (IEs) played a huge role in the primary, especially in

legislative races. Millions were spent by the special interests. As for slates, with an exception or two, they didn't appear to have the clout they had in 1998 – especially on the GOP side...

GOVERNOR

...A big night for Demo Gov. Gray Davis and for GOP conservative newcomer Bill Simon Jr. The results of Tuesday's primary was not a shock to Calif. insiders or to Calif. political reporters who had been watching Richard Riordan's meltdown for the past 14 days. The big losers in this primary were President George Bush's White House political operation (Karl Rove), who along with the leadership of the Calif. Republican Party (CRP), were hoping for a Riordan win. Riordan was seen as *political salvation* for a political party down in the dumps and not much better off than road kill...

...In January of 2002, Riordan led both Simon and CA Sec. of State Bill Jones by a huge margin in the Field Poll: 46% vs. 13% each for Jones & Simon. A March 2-4 Demo tracking poll showed Simon up by **20 points**. Statewide Simon won by **18 points**: 49.4% vs. 31.4% for Riordan and 17% for Jones. In L.A. Co., Riordan beat Simon by only 22,000 votes. And here's what's critical: Riordan carried only 2 counties: L.A. and Imperial. Jones carried 5 counties and Simon carried 51...

...How did Simon pull this upset? He owes most of his good fortune to *Team Davis* (Garry South, media guru David Doak & pollsters Fairbank Maslin Maullin). Had *Team Davis* not carpet-bombed Riordan with \$7-9 million in negative tv ads (thus causing the meltdown) many sources think it is unlikely Simon would have ever attacked Riordan – or dipped into his personal bank account to fund his tv campaign. It was only after Davis pushed Riordan into a free-fall that Simon really committed himself to going after Riordan. Simon also benefited greatly from Riordan's own blunders: ignoring the GOP base; insisting that the CRP's platform be changed to fit his moderate views on abortion; and insulting former Gov. George Deukmejian. And to repeat what *Calpeek* said last week: Calif. ended up just like New Jersey, where the GOP establishment tried to dictate to the Republican base and fell on its face...

OTHER DOWN-BALLOT RACES

■ **Secretary of State** – Go back to last week's issue of *Calpeek*.

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"There's usually one good upset in every primary and this may be where it happens." Although most of our sources predicted a win by former SOS March Fong Eu, it was Demo Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley of S.F. who pulled *the big upset*. Shelley got 33.7% vs. Eu at 29.0% vs. Michela Alioto at 28.2%. Reasons for the upset : 1) Shelley had a majority of the key slates; 2) he had more tv than Alioto and Eu; 3) he had the best endorsements; and 4) sources think Alioto cut into Eu's base of Demo women, especially in the Bay Area. But in the end it may have been that those few Demos who voted just decided it was time for a fresh, new face. Eu's cable tv ads in So. Calif. just reinforced the fact that she'll soon be 80...

...On the GOP side, ex Victorville Assemblyman Keith Olberg won the nomination with 61.9%. His key to winning: he bought onto most all of the key GOP slates...

■ **Insurance Commissioner** – On the Demo side, former IC John Garamendi was successful in his comeback attempt, beating Assemblyman Tom Calderon and former Assemblyman Tom Umberg. Garamendi got 38.5% vs. 28.1% for Umberg and 23.1% for Calderon. Garamendi's win sets up an interesting confrontation with the GOP nominee, former L.A. Deputy Mayor Gary Mendoza. Mendoza got 41.7% and just edged by Stefan Stitch (36.4%) and Wes Bannister (21.9%). Had Bannister not been in this contest, our sources think Stitch would have won, because clearly the message was getting out that Mendoza was a Riordan-backed candidate. Mendoza hasn't decided whether or not to take insurance company money in the fall, but Garamendi said he would NOT...

■ **Controller** – No real shock on the Demo side, as wealthy e-Bay businessman Steve Westly defeated BOE member Johan Klehs by a margin of 56.6% vs. 43.4%. Westly was on tv for almost a full month, while Klehs was on tv about a week. And while Klehs had most, but not all of the key endorsements, the real problem for Klehs (and BOE member Dean Andal) is that the BOE doesn't provide a good base from which to raise campaign funds and few voters know what the BOE is or does...

...On the GOP side, State Sen. Tom McClintock beat Andal by a 45.8% vs. 35.3% margin. This campaign turned nasty toward the end, with Andal attacking McC's anti-tax voting record. Not a smart move and perhaps fatal. Two key problems for Andal: 1) although he was just as conservative as McC, Andal did NOT attend the important CRA endorsement convention late last year. It cost him the endorsement of this group. 2) the real problem for Andal was *lack of focus*. Some GOPers felt he was more interested in going after State Sen. Mike Machado (D-5) in 2004 than running for Controller...

■ **State Treasurer** – Demo incumbent Phil Angelides will face former PUC Comm. Greg Conlon (R) in the fall. Conlon defeated former Deputy Treasurer (under Matt Fong) Mary Toman by a 51.4% to 48.6% margin. Toman entered this primary at the last minute and relied mostly on her own resources. She purchased most all of the key GOP slates, but this was one case where slate

power failed in a down-ballot GOP primary. FYI: Toman is the chair of the L.A. Co. GOP Central Cmt., but it was Conlon who won L.A. County (as of 3/6/02)...

■ **Supt. of Public Instruction** – State Sen. Jack O'Connell (D-Santa Barbara) will face off in November against Orange Co. school board member Katherine H. Smith. GOP Assemblywoman Lynne Leach of Contra Costa Co. finished 3rd. Word on the street is at Smith is actually more conservative than Leach...

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

◆ **Prop. 40** – The \$2.6 billion Water/Air/Parks/Coastal Protection Bond won with 56.8%, despite a heavy conservative vote. Nice win for consultant Winner & Mandabach...

◆ **Prop. 41** – This \$200 million bond to assist counties in buying new voting machines won with 51.5%. Very little money spent on this initiative. Barnes, Mosher, Whitehurst & Partners did the YES on 41 campaign...

◆ **Prop. 42** – A big win for the transportation lobby. This measure requires that sales tax on gasoline be spent on transportation projects. It won with 68.9% despite the fact CTA and SEIU threw in \$2-4 million a last minute ambush to derail 42. Sources say the big construction industry unions want to retaliate. A nice win for Woodward & McDowell...

◆ **Prop. 43** – Right to Vote Counted won with 71.3%...

◆ **Prop. 44** – Insurance Fraud won with 79.5%...

◆ **Prop. 45** – This measure to extend term limits beyond the 6 years in the Assembly and 8 years in the State Senate was defeated with 57.8% NO vs. 42.2% YES. Yes on 45 spent about \$6-8 million, while the NO side's spending isn't known just yet, but they did have both :10 and :15-second tv spots, were on many GOP slates and had NO on 45 radio spots. FYI: term limits (Measures A & B) for L.A. County Supervisors, as well as Sheriff, DA and Assessor were approved by voters...

U.S. HOUSE RACES

☒ **18th CD** – U.S. Rep. Gary Condit (D-Ceres) was defeated for reelection by his former ally and staffer, Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza of Modesto. The margin was 55.3% vs. 37.5%. Cardoza will now face State Sen. Dick Montieth of Modesto, who won the GOP primary with 60.4%. Toward the end of this primary, DC Demos got a little nervous, but Condit's appearance on CNN with Larry King probably sealed the congressman's fate: he again was not believable...

☒ **21st CD** – Winner of this new, open GOP seat is Tulare Co. businessman Devin Nunes. He defeated both GOP Assemblyman Mike Briggs and former Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson. Nunes, who was backed by U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas (R-Bakersfield), got 36.9% vs. 33.0% for Patterson and 25.9% for Briggs. A nice win

for consultant Scott Taylor...

☒ **39th CD** – Looks like there'll be a sister act in DC come next year, as attorney & former O.C. labor executive Linda Sanchez defeated two other Demos to win this new CD. Sanchez, sister of U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez, won with 33.8% vs. 29.4% for South Gate Councilman Hector De La Torre vs. 19.2% for Assemblywoman Sally Havice...

LEGISLATIVE CONTESTS

■ **4th SD** – This open GOP seat in No. Calif. was won by Dr. Sam Aanestad(R). He defeated fellow Assemblyman Dick Dickerson of Redding by a 56.3% vs. 43.7% margin. Nice win for Jim Nygren and Steve Presson (IE for Aanestad by Calif. Dental Assn. PAC)...

■ **12th SD** – Former Assemblyman Rusty Areias(D) was the big winner in his Demo primary with Modesto attorney Armando Flores: 62.2% vs. 37.8%. But the big surprise was Jeff Denham's win over former Assemblyman Peter Frusetta. If Frusetta had won the primary, sources think Areias would have been in trouble. But Denham is *very* conservative. He beat Frusetta by a 56% to 34.8% margin...

■ **36th SD** – An upset of sorts on the GOP side, as conservative Assemblyman Dennis Hollingsworth defeated fellow Assemblymember Charlene Zettel of Poway. Hollingsworth won with 54.2% vs. 45.8% for Zettel. A last minute hit claiming that Zettel favored *gay marriages* may have helped push Hollingsworth over the top in what was a very nasty contest. Zettel started it by running a radio ad saying that Hollingsworth cheated on his wife. Truth is this new 36th SD is very conservative and Zettel was a creature of the old Open Primary Law (with cross-over Demos & independents helping to elect her). In a regular GOP primary, despite tons of money and endorsements for Zettel, Hollingsworth had the conservative base on his side...

■ **2nd AD** – As *Calpeek* sources predicted, Doug La Malfa won this GOP primary with 58.9%. Pat Kight finished 2nd with just 22.6%...

■ **8th AD** – In this 3-way Demo primary shootout, the winner was Yolo Co. Sup. Lois Wolk with 41.3% vs. 31.1% for Chris Cabaldon and 27.6% for Steve Hardy. Wolk was backed by current Assemblywoman Helen Thomson(D)...

■ **10th AD** – No problem here for Lodi Councilman Alan Naskanishi as he got 48.7% in defeating both Dan Kramer at 28.3% and Jon Bagatelos at 14.5%...

■ **13th AD** – A real nail biter in this Demo primary, but S.F. Co. Sup. Mark Leno got 42.4% vs. 40.7% for former Sup. Harry Britt. Former S.F. school board member Steve Phillips faded fast and got only 11.1%, while Holli Their got 5.8%...

■ **14th AD** – Former Berkeley Mayor Loni Hancock will be

going to Sacto as the new Demo Assemblymember. She won with 53.9% vs. only 28.1% for Charles Ramsey and 18.0% for Dave Brown...

■ **15th AD** – GOper Guy Houston is the winner for this GOP seat. He got 59.7% vs. 40.3% for Gordon Blake...

■ **19th AD** – Although *Calpeek* sources said this Demo primary battle was getting tight, DOJ attorney Gina Papan was still regarded as the frontrunner. She lost to So. S.F. Councilman Gene Mullin. Mullin got 41.9% vs. 34.5% for Papan. David Pine got 19.1%. Tons of IEs in this contest...

■ **29th AD** – Steve Samuelian, despite going public with an admission that he solicited an undercover police hooker, won this GOP primary with 56.2% over Fresno businessman Larry Willey (43.8%). Voters were obviously willing to forgive...

■ **30th AD** – Nicole Parra, who works for U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D), won this primary with 55.0%. Her nearest rival was Wasco farmer Jim Crettol, who got 26.3%. Parra will face off in November against Dean Gardner, who won his GOP primary with 66.3%...

■ **36th AD** – Assemblyman Phil Wyman has finally met his match. Sharon Runner, wife of current Assemblyman George Runner, defeated Wyman by a 43.2% vs. 33.0% margin. Two other GOPers took 23.8% of the primary vote. This was one of the nastier GOP primary battles...

■ **39th AD** – No problem for San Fernando Mayor Cindy Montanez(D) in defeating Yolanda Fuentes by a margin of 65.2% vs. 34.2%...

■ **40th AD** – Several last minute hits by Andrei Cherny probably cost this youthful Demo the nomination. Instead, Assembly staffer Lloyd Levine, son of Demo consultant Larry Levine, won the primary with 55.5% vs. 44.5%. Some of the hits accused Levine of being anti-choice and pro-gun. This just wasn't true and it cost Cherny some key endorsements and the election...

■ **46th AD** – No problem for Demo Fabian Nunez as he easily defeated Pedro Carrillo – 57.7% to 31.2%...

■ **48th AD** – Perhaps a little closer than some had predicted, but L.A. Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas won this Demo primary with 48.1% vs. 43.8% for Mike Davis, an aide to L.A. Co. Sup. Yvonne Burke...

■ **52nd AD** – He's back – former Lt. Gov./U.S. Congressman Mervyn Dymally was an easy winner in this Demo open seat primary. Dymally got 51.9% vs. 22.8% for Paramount Mayor Diane Janet Martinez. The Latina who was supposed to give Dymally a tough time, CDP Vice Chair Alex Gallardo-Rooker, got only 8.7%...

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■ **58th AD** – Legislative staffer Ron Calderon won this Demo primary with 46.2% vs. 40.5% for Chuck Fuentes, who is COS to U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano. Lots of IEs in this primary...

■ **63rd AD** – In this GOP primary, Robert Dutton got 44.5% to beat Susan Pepler (38.4%)...

■ **78th AD** – An upset of sorts in San Diego as Councilman George Stevens, who had tons of name ID, lost to former Davis staff director Vince Hall. Hall won with 36.7% vs. 32.4% for Stevens, while attorney Tim Cohelan got 17.2%...

■ **80th AD** – On the GOP side, the winner was legislative staffer Bonnie Garcia, who won with 59.4%. Her nearest rival was John Pena with 25.7%. Garcia will face Demo Joey Acuna Jr., who got 70.7% in defeating Cathedral City Councilman Greg Pettis (20.1%). Some big IEs for Acuna...

LOCAL RACES

● **Orange County** – Measure W to establish a regional park *instead* of a new international airport at El Toro was approved by a 57.8% vs. 42.2% margin. Incumbent DA Tony Rackauckas defeated challenger DDA Wally Wade by a 61.5% vs. 38.5% margin. And Anaheim Mayor Tom Daly will be in a runoff with Bruce Peotter for the county clerk's job...

● **L.A.'s 2nd Council Special Runoff** – Close, close, close. DreamWorks exec. Wendy Greuel was leading Assemblyman Tony Cardenas(D) by only 55 votes as *Calpeek* hit deadline. Election officials, with tons of Cardenas/Greuel supporters and attorneys looking on, are watching the count of the remaining absentee and provisional ballots. Cardenas was considered a slight favorite in this runoff...

● **San Francisco County** – Big upset, as appointed S.F. Co. Public Defender Kim Burton was defeated by ousted PD Jeff Adachi: 54.9% vs. 44.9%. Wonder how fast Adachi will fire Burton??? And incumbent Assessor/Recorder Doris Ward has been forced into a runoff with ex S.F. Co. Sup. Mabel Teng...

● **Ventura County** – In the battle to replace retiring DA Mike Bradbury, chief DDA Greg Totten has defeated deep pocketed DDA Ron Bamieh by a margin of 64.4% to 35.0%...

● **San Bernardino County** – Incumbent DA Dennis Stout has been forced into a runoff by DDA Mike Ramos. Ramos actually came in 1st with 42.7% vs. 35.2% for Stout...

● **San Diego County** – Incumbent DA Paul Pfignst has been forced into a runoff with Judge Bonnie Dumanis. Pfignst got 41.2% vs. 23.1% for Dumanis. Deep pocketed attorney Mike Aguirre, who spent \$400,000 on tv, finished 3rd with 21.3%...

● **Fresno County** – There will be a runoff in this open seat between DDAs Elizabeth Egan and Jeff Hamilton...

● **Butte County** – Incumbent Sup. Jane Dolan (CDP political advisor Bob Mulholland's wife) won reelection with 65.1%. And Measure B, to gerrymander Dolan out of her seat, was defeated by 59.7%...

● **Riverside County** – Incumbent DA Grove Trask easily won reelection over DDA Brian Sussman with 62.40% of the vote. Sussman got only 37.48%...

● **Solano County** – Unusual battle between incumbent DA David Paulson and former Napa Co. DA Anthony Perez, who had moved to Solano Co. Paulson won with 56.7% vs. 43.2% for Perez. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE

We still have about 100 copies of *Calpeek's 2001-02 Directory of Campaign Consultants* left. There are about 300 listings in the Directory. Cost is \$30. Checks only. No credit cards and no invoicing. Send payment with your name, address, etc. (please type or print clearly) to Calif. Political Week or Calpeek, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213...

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CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Mar. 19	5 th annual L.A. Political Roast, Beverly Hilton Hotel.
Mar. 21-23	AAPC 2002 spring conference at Gaslamp Quarter Hilton, San Diego.
Apr. 12	Grand opening of Alameda Corridor in L.A.
Apr. 25	Pat Brown Inst.'s 21 st annual awards dinner, Biltmore Hotel, L.A.
June 27	Last day for initiatives to qualify for November 2002 general election ballot.
July 31	State campaign reports due.
Aug. 31	Final day of CA Legislative session for 2002.
Sept. 30	Last day for Governor to sign bills.
Oct. 21	Last day to register for November election.
Nov. 5	Calif. General Election.